



Softball | 2/16/2016 4:37:00 PM | Don Stopa, Assistant Sports Information Director

## 2015 UMC Senior Softball Players Off to Strong Starts in Professional Fields



**CROOKSTON, Minn.-** Later this week the Golden Eagle softball team will kickoff their 2016 campaign with four games in Aberdeen, South Dakota at the Presentation College Indoor Tournament. With a roster of 22 players, the UMC squad is bigger than previous years as 11 new players will wear the Maroon and Gold, replacing three 2015 seniors that graduated last May.

To take a look at life after softball, we asked [Shelby Hollinger](#) (Neudorf, Saskatchewan), [Josee Plante](#) (Manitou, Manitoba) and [Brooke Vathauer](#) (Crookston, Minn.): What are you doing now? What is the plan five years from now? And, what do you miss most about UMC softball?



Hollinger is currently in her first year of medical school at St. George's University in Grenada. Five years from now the former second baseman plans to be married to her new fiancé, former UMC quarterback Ben Bucholz, and finishing up her medical training, including her residency back home in Canada.

"The thing I miss most about college softball is being in shape and doing almost everything with my family of teammates, including 6:00 am circuit training in the turf room," said Hollinger.



Plante has also continued on with her education as she is in her first year of graduate studies and working on her Master's in Athletic Training at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minn. The UMC third baseman will graduate in May of 2017 and the five year plan is to seek employment as a collegiate athletic trainer here in the U.S.

"What I miss most about UMC softball is my teammates," Plante said. "Even though the season hasn't begun, I am going to miss the travel and playing with the girls. College softball was such a big part of my life for four years, it's hard to think that I won't be playing this spring."



Vathauer has taken a different approach to life after UMC as she is gaining a year of work experience in her chosen field before she attends grad school next fall. The local pitcher is employed as an optometric technician in Grand Forks, North Dakota while she applies to optometry schools around the country. Five years from now Brooke will be graduated from optometry school, reentering the workforce and,

"Living with the guy of my dreams, which I haven't found yet," added Vathauer.

"The part I miss about Golden Eagle softball is being on the mound every day and being around my teammates. Working out on my own isn't the same, even though I wear my team gear every day to the gym."

The 2016 edition of Golden Eagle softball opens up with a pair of games on Saturday as they take on Valley City State University and Presentation College with starts of 11:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. on the campus of Presentation College.

For more information, visit the Golden Eagle Athletics website at [www.goldeneaglesports.com](http://www.goldeneaglesports.com).

Follow the Golden Eagles on Facebook at Golden Eagle Sports and on Twitter at @UMCAthletics.

The University of Minnesota Crookston is an NCAA Division II Institution and a member of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC). The Golden Eagle Equestrian team is a member of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA).

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-30-

PLAYERS MENTIONED ▾

**#3 Shelby Hollinger**

2B / 5' 7" / Senior / R

**#11 Josee Plante**

3B / 5' 6" / Senior / R

**#16 Brooke Vathauer**

P/1B / 5' 5" / Senior / L

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